

## INFORMATION REPORT

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- On 10 September 1952, the Ministry for National Forces began to move to 1 to 4 Schneller Strasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide. The Bureau fuer Wirtschaftsfragen (Bureau for Economic Affairs) (BfW) moved to 37/43 Glinka Strasse, Berlin-Mitte, previously occupied by the Ministry for National Forces. This inter-exchange of office rooms between the two agencies was caused by the increased office space required for the BfW with regard to special imminent tasks. According to information available to source, the BfW represents the central procurement and supply headquarters of the planned East German National Army. (1) For security reasons, the two agencies will leave their furniture at their previous offices, and files will be exchanged at night.
- Employees of the ministry refer to their new office as "headquarters". It is planned to house the main administrations of the Ministry for National Forces on Schneller Strasse and also in the buildings of the former HVA in Berlin-Adlershof. The HVA is scheduled to be deactivated and merged with the Ministry for National Forces. The plan for the merger has not been worked out. Generalinspekteur Heinz Hoffmann is allegedly scheduled to be transferred to the Ministry for National Forces. His new assignment is not yet clear. By order of Minister Willi Stoph predominantly field grade officers of the Kasernierte Volkspolizei will be assigned to the Ministry for National Forces without regard of their qualifications.
- In connection with all these measures, it is planned to make new arrangements for the budget of the HVA, HVL, HVS, the BfW and the Ministry for National Forces. Details are not yet available. In August 1952, 858,000 eastmarks were expended by the Ministry for National Forces. (2)
- The payment classification regulations for the national forces went into effect on 1 September 1952. The payment of field grade officers is to depend on their ranks and assignments. For instance, a captain who is the commanding officer of a battalion will draw 500 eastmarks for his rank and 600 eastmarks for his

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assignment as battalion commander per month. A VP Rat (captain) assigned to the ministry is said to draw 1,000 eastmarks per month after taxes. No deductions for social insurances and no payments to revenue offices are to be made in order to keep the number of officers and EM assigned to units and headquarters secret.

5. On 1 September, recruiting offices for the national army were established in Rostock, Neubrandenburg, Magdeburg, Halle, Leipzig, Gera, Chemnitz and Dresden. (3)
6. The first fully equipped units of the national army are scheduled to parade before the East German Government on 7 October 1952. The units concerned will allegedly wear gray-brown uniforms similar to those worn by Soviet soldiers and will be equipped with Soviet arms.

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 Comments.

- (1) According to other information, the Bureau for Economic Affairs has also been designated as the central armament headquarters.
- (2) In June and July 1952, a total of 185,000 eastmarks was spent by the Ministry for National Forces. About 110,000 eastmarks of this sum were payments to personnel. The considerable increase of this budget for the month of August indicates that the organization of the Ministry for National Forces is progressing rapidly.
- (3) It may be assumed that such recruiting offices will be established in all newly established Verwaltungsbezirke. After the introduction of universal military service, these recruiting offices may assume the missions of draft boards.

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